



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger
Secretary

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Contact: Rodney Mallett
Jeff Meyers
Telephone: 225.219.3964
225.219.3624

Environmental News

DEQ Begins Cleanup at Chrome Doctor

(Baton Rouge)—The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is scheduled to begin cleanup of the Chrome Doctor, Inc., site on Wednesday. Work at the Lake Charles company, located at 1001 Main Street, will begin with the remediation of a 21,000-gallon frac tank that contains hazardous waste. The frac tank is deteriorating and the material inside will have to be taken to a special disposal site that can handle the hazardous waste waters.

Some of the chemicals on site are mercury, arsenic and strong acids. Many of the chemicals are incompatible with one another, like cyanides and acids.

“Part of the business is to dispose of the hazardous materials and dispose of them properly,” said Jeff Meyers, emergency response manager for DEQ, who added that the task will take up to six weeks and will be financed by the state’s emergency trust fund. “They didn’t take care of the materials properly on their end, so now DEQ has to come in and clean up the site.”

The Calcasieu Parish District Attorney’s Office has charged two of the three directors of Chrome Doctor with illegal disposal of hazardous waste in November. Robert and Jenelle Beam were the co-directors who were ordered to shut down in October 2002, for failure to remit taxes. The DEQ investigation that led to the arrests found that much of the hazardous material used when the company was in operation is still stored on the abandoned site and has not been properly managed.